

ATHERSTONE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department



THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

1959

ATHERSTONE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORTS
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and of the
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

---oOo---

FOR THE YEAR

1959

GEOGRAPHICAL SITUATION, SOCIAL CONDITIONS

AND OCCUPATIONS

The Rural District of Atherstone lies almost in the centre of England and in the northern part of the County of Warwick. The northern and eastern boundaries of the District form part of the Leicestershire County border. Neighbouring Warwickshire local authorities are Nuneaton Borough and Meriden and Tamworth Rural Districts. Coventry is situated 15 miles to the south and Leicester and Birmingham are each 20 miles away to the east and west respectively.

The interests of Atherstone have always been agricultural, commercial and industrial. Coal mining and hat manufacturing are the principal industries, whilst there are also brick, pipe and tile works, engineering works, hosiery and footwear factories and other minor industries.

Means of communication are good. The busy trunk road known as Watling Street (A5), passes through the town of Atherstone, as also does the main London to Crewe Railway Line and the Coventry Canal.

Two Industrial Sites exist which are not fully developed. There is a need for new industries as well as for extension of some of the existing industries, and splendid opportunities exist for such development.

Atherstone is of great antiquity. Indisputable evidence of Roman association has been discovered from time to time. Atherstone town was well established in the 9th century and it was entered in Domesday Book as Aderstone.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

at 31st December, 1959.

Chairman:

Councillor E. Bond, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

Councillor J. Sanders, J.P.

Councillors:

Mr. F. G. Young, J.P., Mrs. E. E. Blower, C.C., Mr. H. Alcock,
Mr. H. Arnold, Mr. L. G. Beasley, Mr. G. S. Collins,
Mr. R. Fretwell, Mr. P. Hastings, Mr. W. H. Knight,
Mr. J. F. McCarthy, Mr. D. W. Mellor, Mr. R. Mellor,
Mr. A. Morris, Mr. P. H. Sanders, Mr. A. E. Shaw, J.P.,
Mr. A. L. Standley, Mr. F. Worrall.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

G. DISON, M.C., L.R.C.P., & S., D.P.H.,

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

E. M. HUGHES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent:

S. B. ACTON, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.I.P.H.H.

Deputy Public Health Inspector:

R. A. MARGOSCHIS, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector.

P. HILBERT, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Assistant:

MISS M. E. HAWKER.

STATISTICS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	21,945
Population, census, 1931	...	...	...	...	...	21,847
Population, census, 1951	...	...	...	...	...	23,658
Intercensal increase in population...	...	...	...	...	...	1,815
Population (mid-year estimate) 1949	...	...	...	...	...	24,770
Number of inhabited houses, 1959	...	...	...	...	...	7,166
Density of population, i.e. number of persons per acre, 1959	...	...	...	...	...	1.13
Number of persons per dwelling, 1959	...	...	...	...	...	3.19
Rateable value of District	...	...	...	...	...	£260,907
Sum represented by penny rate, 1959	...	...	...	...	...	£1,025
Excess of males over females (at Census)	...	...	...	...	...	400

Parish Population, Census 1951:-

Parish	Males	Females	Total
Ansley	1,077	1,010	2,087
Atherstone	2,878	2,947	5,825
Baddesley Ensor	900	799	1,699
Baxterley	169	165	334
Bontloy	94	90	184
Caldecote	67	54	121
Dordon	1,467	1,366	2,833
Grondon	811	780	1,591
Hartshill	1,391	1,351	2,742
Mancetter	959	954	1,913
Merovale	118	103	221
Oldbury	42	46	88
Polesworth	2,056	1,964	4,020
			<hr/> 23,658 <hr/>

VITAL STATISTICS

				Male	Female	Total
Live Births	...	...	...	201	193	394
Legitimate	...	...	...	197	187	384
Illegitimate	...	...	...	4	6	10
Birth Rate	...	...	...			15.9
Comparability Factor	...	...	...			0.96
Corrected Birth Rate	...	...	...			15.3
Still-births	...	...	...	3	4	7
Legitimate	...	...	...	3	4	7
Illegitimate	...	...	...	-	-	-
Deaths	...	...	...	147	98	245
Death Rate	...	...	...			9.88
Correction Factor	...	...	...			1.19
Corrected Death Rate	...	...	...			11.75
Infant Deaths	...	...	...
(0 weeks to 12 months)	...	...	...	7	3	10
Legitimate	...	...	...	7	3	10
Illegitimate	...	...	...	-	-	-
Infant Mortality Rate	...	...	...			25.4
Legitimate	...	...	...			26.0
Neo-Natal Deaths						
(under 1 month)	...	...	...	5	3	8
Legitimate	...	...	...	5	3	8
Illegitimate	...	...	...	-	-	-

NUMBER OF DEATHS FOR THE YEAR, 1959.

	Cause of Death	Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	1	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	1	1
4.	Diphtheria	1	1
5.	Whooping Cough	1	1
6.	Meningococcal infections	1	1
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	1	1
8.	Measles	1	1
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	7	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	3
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	7
15.	Leukaemia, all leukaemia	1	1
16.	Diabetes	2	1
17.	Vascular diseases of nervous system	13	21
18.	Coronary artery disease	26	15
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	1
20.	Other heart disease	18	13
21.	Other circulatory disease	8	4
22.	Influenza	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	7	5
24.	Bronchitis	6	4
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	6	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	1	1
31.	Congenital malformations	2	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14	9
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	6	1
34.	All other accidents	9	2
35.	Suicide	2	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	1	1
		<u>147</u>	<u>98</u>
			<u><u>245</u></u>

BIRTHS

The number of registered live births in 1959, was 394. This was an increase of 20 over the number recorded in 1958. In post-War years the number was highest in 1946, when 487 births were registered.

For 1959, the comparability factor is 0.96 and the corrected birth rate is then 15.3 per 1,000 population. The Birth Rate for England and Wales in 1959, was 16.5 per 1,000 populations.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 245 (same number as in 1958), giving a crude death rate of 9.9 per 1,000 population. The factor for correction is 1.19 and it results in a standardised death rate of 11.7 per 1,000 population. The "correction factor," being above unity, indicates that Atherstone District has a younger, on average, population than the rest of the Country. The corrected death rate is designed to afford a means of comparing the healthiness of different districts by accounting for the irregularities of the distribution of the population as regards age and sex.

The 1959, death rate for England and Wales was 11.6 per 1,000 population.

The diseases and conditions giving rise to the majority of the deaths over the last five years are:-

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Diseases of the heart and blood vessels	90	76	64	75	85
Cerebral Haemorrhage	37	42	43	50	34
Cancer	53	33	45	42	41
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	24	16	31	21	22
Violence, accidents and suicide	25	12	12	14	19

INFANT DEATHS

10 deaths of infants under one year of age occurred during 1959, 7 were males and 3 were females.

The infantile mortality rate was 25.38 per 1,000 related live births. The rate for England and Wales was 22.0

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The table on page 9 shows the number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases which have occurred in Atherstone over the last eleven years.

The following are the number of cases of infectious diseases notified by Medical Practitioners in the year ended 31st December, 1959.

	Males	Females	Total
Scarlet Fever	16	9	25
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Measles	242	214	456
Acute Poliomyelitis			
Paralytic	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection... ..	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis	1	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia... ..	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	12	8	20
Paratyphoid Fever... ..	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	-	-	-
Malaria			
Contracted Abroad	-	-	-
Indigenous	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-
	<u>271</u>	<u>231</u>	<u>502</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED

Disease	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Scarlet Fever	22	15	81	18	17	15	40	35	13	25
Whooping Cough	21	69	3	68	16	43	4	26	6	25
Measles	292	230	120	292	66	658	9	369	24	456
Acute Poliomyelitis:										
Paralytic	1	-	-	8	-	1	-	-	1	-
Non-Paralytic	3	1	-	12	-	1	1	2	1	-
Diphtheria...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	2	2	1	1	2	-	-	-	2	-
Acute Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Dysentery	2	2	1	1	-	61	27	1	5	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	2	2	-
Acute Pneumonia	46	51	16	22	36	53	28	42	13	20
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	6	5	14	4	2	4	6	-
Malaria:										
Contracted abroad	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Indigenous	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas...	1	1	2	3	4	-	-	4	2	-

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

TABLE 1

	MALES		FEMALES		Total
	Pul- monary	Non- Pul- monary	Pul- monary	Non- Pul- monary	
(a) Number of cases on Register at beginning of year	80	18	54	20	172
(b) Number of cases notified under Regulations of 1952 for first time in year	9	-	4	1	14
(c) Number of cases restored to Register	-	-	1	-	1
(d) Number of cases added to Register otherwise than by formal notification	-	-	-	-	-
(e) Number of cases removed from Register during the year.	11	3	9	8	31
(f) Number of cases remaining on Register on 31st December, 1959.	73	15	50	13	156

SUMMARY OF CASES ON THE TUBERCULOSIS

REGISTER 1948-1959

TABLE II

	Cases on Register			Notifications each year			Deaths		
Year	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Total
1948	103	33	136	33	4	37	10	1	11
1949	117	34	151	26	5	31	6	2	8
1950	123	36	159	18	5	23	10	1	11
1951	132	40	172	30	8	38	7	3	10
1952	146	47	193	28	12	40	6	2	8
1953	160	50	210	24	8	32	4	1	5
1954	174	49	223	29	2	31	3	-	3
1955	158	45	203	18	5	23	2	-	2
1956	149	43	192	11	3	14	4	1	5
1957	137	37	174	10	1	11	1	-	1
1958	134	38	172	9	4	13	3	-	3
1959	128	28	156	13	1	14	2	-	2

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory in Coventry accepts specimens sent for examination. Messrs. Bostock, Hill & Rigby, Public Analysts, Birmingham, are also frequently employed by the Council.

A supply of Diphtheria anti-toxin is held in the Health Department in the Council Offices and anti-toxin is also available from the Public Health Laboratory at Coventry and from the Hospitals.

THE GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICE

The General Practitioners Service is administered by the Warwickshire Executive Council; eight medical practitioners live in the district, but others living outside have extended their activities to cover parts of the district.

There are no general hospital services directly available within the district, but Out-patients and In-patients facilities are available at the Nuneaton and Tamworth hospitals. Cases of infectious diseases are usually admitted to Whitley Hospital, Coventry, and a small percentage of cases requiring special treatment are admitted to Birmingham Hospitals. The one-time Atherstone Isolation Hospital at Grendon has now been converted into a Sanatorium, but the bed accommodation for Tuberculosis patients is largely provided for at Horthford Hill Sanatorium, Near Warwick, but various other Sanatoria within the Birmingham Hospital Region are also used. Out-patient facilities are available at the Dispensary, Market Street, Atherstone, each Monday by appointment.

The Warwickshire County Council are responsible for the administration of the School Health Service, and for arrangements for Domiciliary Nursing, Domestic Helps, Vaccination and Immunisation, the care of Mothers and Young Children, the Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care and the Ambulance Service as laid down in Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946. With the exception of the Ambulance Service, the day by day administration of these services is under the control of the Area Medical Officer of Health, Council House, Nuneaton. The Ambulance Depot is at Watling Street, Grendon.

A General Purposes Clinic is situated in Station Street, Atherstone. Infant Welfare and School Clinics are held in and conducted in these premises and sessions are held at which the Speech Therapist, Dentist and Eye Specialist attend. A school Dental Officer covers Bedworth and Atherstone and is at present devoting two full days a week to treatment.

INFANT WELFARE SERVICE

Station Street, Atherstone.	Infant Welfare Clinic	Wednesdays (2-4 p.m.)
Church Hall, Ansley.	"	Wednesdays (2-4 p.m.)
Village Hall, Dordon.	"	Alternate Mondays (2-4 p.m.)
Parish Hall, Polesworth.	"	Alternate Tuesdays (2-4 p.m.)
Wesleyan Hall, Baddesley.	"	Alternate Fridays (2-4 p.m.)

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Station Street, Atherstone.	Minor Ailments Clinic	Wednesdays (9-12 noon)
"	Ophthalmic Clinic	Monday morning Monthly by appointment.
"	Speech Therapy Clinic	Monday afternoon Monthly by appointment.
"	Orthopaedic Exercises Clinic	Tuesday afternoon by appointment.
"	Dental Clinic	Tuesdays and Fridays all day by appointment.
Nursing Home, Polesworth.	Minor Ailments Clinic	Alternate Tuesdays 9 a.m.
Nurses Home, Hartshill.	Minor Ailments	Daily (8.30-9 a.m.)

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my seventeenth Annual Report.

The work of the Department is digested into the various sections following. Additional comment might fairly be made in connection with the mammoth task which we undertook, namely:--

The Housing Survey, 1959.

In February, 1959, it was decided to carry out an Inspection Survey, with Category Classification, of all the dwellings in the District. The main objective was to shew to all concerned the Parishes and Areas of the Rural District where future new Council houses would be most needed for the replacement of dwellings which were to be condemned.

As short-duration Surveys have greater value than protracted ones, an unflagging effort was made by the Staff of the Department. The necessary 7,430 inspection cards being completed in 8-months.

The Survey results were analysed into District, Parish and Ward tables. A copy of the table applying to the whole of the Rural District is appended to this Report.

From the mass of information gathered, the future housing requirements and Council house development, parish by parish, for families to be displaced can be assessed. Particulars which are necessary to, in part, administer the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, are up-to-date. The County Planning Authority can be better informed and more accurately designate the future use of land. Planned schemes for house repair (worst first) could, if repair labour were available, be drawn-up and pursued. "Search enquiries" can be accurately answered in seconds without it being necessary to visit any premises in question, and in several other Department activities, the collected data is in daily use.

The first Rural Housing Survey (dwellings up to £16 only Rateable Value) was completed at the end of 1947. It was carried out at the behest of the Minister of Health. Over the years between, owners had done a lot of works of repair at rented and self-occupied houses. Much of this work had been instigated from your Health Department.

Some figures and percentage comparisons between the 1947 and 1959 Surveys which were brought out in the 1959 Survey Report seem worth repeating. They are:-

<u>Item</u>	<u>1947</u>		<u>1959</u>	
	Number	%	Number	%
Number of houses surveyed.	5,051	85.5	7,430	100.0
Joint use of water-closets.	780	15.4	185	2.5
Houses using privy-middens.	124	2.5	9	0.1
Mains water to standpipe only.	499	9.9	64	0.9
Mains water in wash-house only.	239	4.7	77	1.0
Shallow well water only.	139	2.7	80	1.1
Sink in wash-house only.	438	8.7	78	1.1
No sink to dwelling.	83	1.6	25	0.8
Joint use of wash-house.	711	14.2	455	6.1
No pantry or 'frige.	722	14.3	674	9.0
Not draining to public sewer.	463	9.2	741	10.0

It will be noted that the only percentage increase is found in the last item of houses, "not draining to public sewer."

A study of the Table at the end of this Report is, I suggest, worthwhile to all interested in housing matters.

I greatly value and appreciate the assistance and support which has again been given to me by Mr. Councillor Bond, J.P., Chairman of the Public Health Committee and the Members of that Committee.

My best thanks are due to Mr. Margoschis, Mr. Hibbert and Miss Hawker in the Department for their unfailing good work.

Commending this Report to your notice.

S. B. ACTON.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Acherstone I.D.C. Whole District.

Category	No. of Houses	% of Total	Estim. Popu- lat'n.	NUMBER OF ROOMS						WATER SUPPLY					
										COUNCIL MAINS			Well or Spring.	Con- stant Hot Supply	No Hot Supply
				Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven & over	Laid In Hse.	In Wash- hse.	Stand pipe.			
I.	3,440	46.4	11,338	10	47	401	872	1,732	378	3,428	-	-	12	3,440	-
II.	2,448	32.9	8,066	-	5	189	927	1,160	167	2,424	-	-	24	356	2,092
III.	1,050	14.1	3,459	11	19	334	314	275	97	955	28	34	33	32	1,018
IV.	492	6.6	1,621	11	78	248	94	48	13	402	49	30	11	5	487
TOTALS	7,430	-	24,484	32	149	1,172	2,207	3,215	655	7,209	77	64	80	3,833	3,597
% OF TOTALS		100.0	-	0.4	2.0	15.7	29.7	43.4	8.8	97.0	1.0	0.9	1.1	51.5	48.5
				336	One hundred and two houses condemned but not vacated.										
				24,820	Total Estimated Population.										

+ 10 - 1 Room Almshouses included.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION				DRAINAGE							BATHING FACILITIES.			No Pantry or 'Frig.	No Main Elect. or Gas.	No Sep. Wash- ing Accom.	No Ext. Fuel Store.
Water Closet		Pail Sep.	Midd- en Sep.	Sink in Hse.	Sink in Wash- hse.	No Sink	To Coun. Sewer.	To cess pit.	To Tank and Fltr.	Dir- ect to Ditch.	Sep. Bath Room.	Bath in Other Room.	No Bath or Sh'r.				
Sep.	Jnt.																
3,440	-	-	-	3,440	-	-	3,179	180	81	-	3,440	-	-	-	2	-	-
2,380	2	65	1	2,448	-	-	2,251	131	46	20	1,190	169	1,089	122	4	40	6
804	77	+ 165	4	1,001	34	15	840	119	30	61	44	13	993	370	17	266	72
319	106	63	4	438	44	10	419	34	3	36	9	4	479	182	9	149	70
6,943	185	+ 293	9	7,327	78	25	6,689	464	160	117	4,683	186	2,561	674	32	455	148
93.5	2.5	3.9	0.1	98.6	1.1	0.3	90.0	6.2	2.2	1.6	63.0	2.5	34.5	9.0	0.4	6.1	2.0

+ Includes 10 joint pail closets.

continued from above.

HOUSING

In 1959, the Long Street, Atherstone, No. 5, 6 and 7 Clearance Areas were represented. These Areas respectively comprised 3-dwellings and 2-lock-up shops; 18-dwelling houses and one shop and 4-dwellings. A Compulsory Purchase Order was made in respect of Area No. 5, but was not pursued on the owner's undertaking to demolish and redevelop the Area. Area No. 6 was being purchased by agreement at the close of the year, partly by the Grammar School Governors for Grammar School extensions and partly by this Council for the erection of dwellings. A Clearance Order was made in respect of Area No. 7.

Also in the year 15 Demolition Orders were made in respect of individual unfit houses - one in Atherstone, three in Ansley; two in Grendon; three in Hartshill and six in Polesworth.

At the 31st December, 1959, there were 2,118 Council owned dwellings in the District, of which 708 were pre-War. No new Council dwellings were completed during the whole of 1959, but some of the 22 being built at Warton were nearing completion, whilst the erection of the two-blocks of 20-flats each at Atherstone and the block of 27-flats at Mancetter, all of which were commenced towards the end of 1958, were progressing. Also 194 houses and bungalows and 6 shops and flats were approved for the Atherstone North Site.

The Displacement Register shews that 245 families from condemned houses have been re-housed by the Council since the 2nd November, 1955 - 3 to the end of that year; 31 in 1956; 179 in 1957; 24 in 1958 and 8 only in 1959, were put into Council houses which became vacant.

At the end of 1959, there were still 99 condemned houses not vacated. 74 of these were in Atherstone Parish; 2 in Baddesley Ensor; one in Hartshill and 22 in Polesworth.

The 2,118 existing Council houses are in the following Parishes - Atherstone 673; Ansley 156; Baddesley Ensor 202; Baxterley 24; Dordon 135; Grendon 14; Hartshill 132; Mancetter 413 and Polesworth 359. There are no Council-owned dwellings in the Parishes of Bentley, Caldecote, Merevale and Oldbury, which are more rural parishes.

The following Table is made up from four quarterly returns which were sent to the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

Return for the Year Ended 31st December, 1958.

A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED.	Houses Demol- ished	Displaced during year	
		Persons	Families
In Clearance Areas.			
1. Houses unfit for human habitation	1	2	1
2. Houses included by reason of bad arrangement etc.	-	-	-
3. Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957.	-	-	-
Not in Clearance Areas.			
4. As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sect. 17(1) H.A. 1957.	21	19	7
5. Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by the Medical Officer of Health.	-	-	-
6. Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts.	-	-	-
7. Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders.	-	-	-
	Number		
B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED			
8. Under Secs. 16(4), 17(1) & 35(1) Housing Act, 1957.	-	-	-
9. Under Secs. 17(3) & 26 Housing Act, 1957.	-	-	-
10. Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 Housing Act, 1957.	-	-	-
C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED			
		By Owner	By L.A.
11. After informal action by Local Authority.		105	-
12. After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts.		10	1
(b) Sections 9 & 16 Housing Act, 1957.		5	2
13. Under Section 24 Housing Act, 1957.		-	-
D. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE			
Position at end of year.		Number of Houses (1)	Number of separate dwellings in col. (1) (2)
14. Retained for temporary accommodation.			
(a) under Section 48.		-	-
(b) under Section 17(2).		-	-
(c) under Section 46.		-	-
15. Licensed for temporary occupation under Section 34 or 53.		-	-
E. PURCHASES OF HOUSING BY AGREEMENT.			
		Number of Hses. (1)	Number of Occupants. (2)
16. Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased in the Year.		-	-

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

The Rent Act, 1957, came into force on the 6th July, 1957. To the end of that year, 41 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received. Throughout 1958, a further 41 similar applications were made by tenants, but in 1959, as is shewn in the Table below, only 12 tenants applied for Certificates.

RENT ACT, 1957

FIRST SCHEDULE

Name of Local Authority - Atherstone Rural District Council.

Period covered 1st January, 1959 to 31st December, 1959.

Part I - Applications for Certificates of Disrepair:-

(1) Number of applications for certificates	12
(2) Number of decisions not to issue certificates ...	Nil
(3) Number of decisions to issue certificates	12
(a) in respect of some but not all defects ...	7
(b) in respect of all defects	5
(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	7
(5) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	Nil
(6) Number of Certificates issued	5

Part II - Applications for Cancellation of Certificates

(7) Applications by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates	2
(8) Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	Nil
(9) Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objection... ..	Nil
(10) Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	2

WATER SUPPLIES

During 1959, 133 samples of Council's mains water from sources of supply, reservoirs and consumers' taps in all parts of the District were submitted to the Public Health Laboratories, Coventry for bacteriological examination. A further 12 samples were bacteriologically and chemically examined at the Public Analysts, Mossrs. Bostock, Hill and Rigby, Birmingham.

Of the 12 samples examined by the Public Analysts, four were shown to be unsatisfactory. One had a higher than desirable colony count, whilst the other three showed B. Coli (not Type I) to be present in 100 ml., 11 ml., and 2 ml. respectively with, in two cases, high bacterial counts.

Of the 133 samples bacteriologically examined at the Public Health Laboratories, Coventry, only 88 gave satisfactory results. 45 showed varying degrees of B. Coli contamination with Type I present in 25 instances. These contaminated samples were associated with two limited areas of pollution. In the one case being connected with the laying of new mains and services to a Housing Estate and in the other resulting from pollution in the Bentley Reservoir and consequently the distribution mains and services therefrom. Your Engineer and Surveyor, who had charge of the water undertaking, took prompt action by having the Bentley Reservoir cleaned out and disinfected; by removing an overhanging tree above an elevated tank and carrying out other works around the reservoir, together with installing chlorinating apparatus. There was a good deal of liaison between the two departments in carrying out the works and when completed several satisfactory bacteriological examination results were obtained. There is little doubt that the pollution arose in the reservoir and in the elevated tank, for the 14 samples which were taken at the Baddosley Colliery Filter House before and during the pollution period were satisfactory, as also was the series of samples taken at the head of the pumping main from the Colliery.

Some 12 dwellings in Caldecote receive water from a private supply. A number of springs converge into a small underground reservoir from which water is pumped to storage tanks. Serious contamination was evident from adverse (B. Coli Type I) bacteriological examination results. The installation of chlorinating apparatus together with cleansing and disinfecting the reservoir gave satisfactory results on water in the distribution lines.

Five samples of well water were bacteriologically examined at the Public Health Laboratories. All were polluted. All gave high bacterial counts with B. Coli and faecal types in two cases. In one instance, two houses served by one polluted well were made subjects of condemnation orders. A farm served by a polluted well was connected to mains water. A metafilter with semi-rotary pump was fixed on a polluted well serving two isolated cottages. Proposed mains extensions in Hartshill Parish will shortly result in dis-use of the two other contaminated wells, which serve five houses.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Of the 7,532 houses in the District 6,791 drain to public sewers; 464 have cesspits; 160 are with semi-septic tanks and 117 discharge waste water direct into ditches. It might then be assumed, that as a Rural Area, the District is well equipped with means of sewage purification, but this can be judged from the following resume.

Atherstone Parish.

New works built in 1956, when new relief sewers and new pumping stations were also installed.

Ansley Parish.

The Ansley Village is served by two sewage works one of which was laid down by the Coal Industry Housing Association in 1953, in connection with a new Housing Site. This works was taken over by the Council and after the southern end of the village had been re-sewered in 1959, additional dwellings were connected. The second sewage works which serves the properties at the northern end of the village is inadequate. The hamlet of Birchley Heath is served by new sewers and a sewage works which was laid down during 1956 and 1957. From the Ansley Common part of the Parish sewage is conveyed to Nuneaton's sewers and dealt with at a metered charge, at that Borough's Sewage Works - in some respects a convenient arrangement - but illicit connections of storm water drains into foul sewers have occurred over the years, and the storm water has to be paid for at crude sewage rate.

Baddesley Ensor Parish

Sewage from approximately one-half of the houses in the Parish passes through a totally inadequate and obsolete sewage works on the southern side of the village. On a limited area of land around the sewage works a form of land irrigation is practised. There is serious pollution of a water course and a new works is an urgent necessity. Sewage from the properties on the northern side of the watershed gravitates to the Grendon Parish sewage works which is also over-loaded and obsolete.

Baxterley Parish.

Part of the village is served by a works and sewers which were put down in 1922, in connection with a small Housing Estate. Other houses in the village discharge sewage to four small septic tanks and percolating beds which are owned by the National Coal Board.

Bentley Parish.

This is very rural and there are no sewers or sewage works.

Caldecote Parish.

One-third of the houses in the parish are connected to a private sewerage system put down when the Hall was built. Outfall is to a tank in an isolated thicket where irrigation is practised.

Dordon Parish.

The effluent from the Dordon Sewage Works shews gross impurity. The houses on the Polesworth side of the watershed discharge to the Polesworth Works whilst a few houses on the Grendon side discharge into the Grendon Parish Works of which mention has been previously made.

Freasley Ward.

There is a small private drainage system which serves houses around The Green.

Grendon Parish.

Grendon has an overloaded and obsolete sewage works on the northern side of the village. This works also serves about one half of the houses in Baddesley Ensor and 50 in Dordon Parish.

Hartshill Parish.

In this Parish the Council has an old and inadequate sewage works, appropriately isolated in a wood. From about one-third of the properties in this parish sewage is passed into the convenient sewers of Nuneaton Borough and treated at their works.

Mancetter Parish.

In the Atherstone and Mancetter Sewerage Scheme which was completed in 1956, a sewer extension to some 50 houses in the old village of Mancetter was deleted by the Minister, but in December, 1958, the Minister relented and sanctioned the sewer extension. Unfortunately the new sewers had not been laid at the end of 1959. When the old village of Mancetter has been connected, sewage from almost all the population of this parish will be pumped to the new Atherstone Sewage Works.

Merevale Parish.

This is very rural and there are no Council sewage works or sewers in the Area.

Oldbury Parish.

This is the smallest parish and is not served by public sewers. A small plant owned by the National Coal Board deals with sewage from a group of a dozen houses.

Polesworth Parish.

The Sewage Works in the Polesworth Ward of the Polesworth Parish also serves part of the Dordon Parish. This sewage works is obsolete, dilapidated and totally inadequate. Birchmoor Ward has a small and inefficient installation. Warton Ward has two small, old and inadequate works; one to the north and the other to the south of the village.

It is several years since Consulting Engineers were first engaged to draw up schemes for new and relief sewers and new pumping stations and sewage works for the parish of Polesworth (including Warton and Birchmoor), and the Parish of Dordon. A Public Local Inquiry into the scheme was held in January, 1956. Further details from the Consulting Engineers were considered by the Council last April.

COLLIERY SPOIL BANKS.

The old Baddesley Colliery Spoil Bank, north-east of the Colliery which was disused in 1955, after some sixty years of continuous combustion, still continues, in decreasing amount from year to year, to give off sulphurous fumes.

The new Baddesley Colliery Spoil Bank which was commenced in 1955, in Baxterley Park, on the north-west side of the Colliery and Village, was well maintained and kept free from nuisance throughout 1959. The layering and consolidating of the spoil is still proving successful and only on a couple of occasions, in a minor way, has external evidence of heat and fire in the bank been evident.

There are three other coal mines in the District which have spoil banks. All are burning, but are so situate that nuisance to our residents does not occur.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION.

Five Shelvoke & Drewry Side-Loading Refuse Freighters are maintained for refuse collection. Two are 1947 models and one each 1950, 1951 and 1956. Three of the vehicles are engaged throughout the 5½-day working week; one is used on four days only each week, and the fifth is a spare vehicle, which is used in emergencies.

A 1956 Karrier, which is fitted with a tipping tank, is used for collecting night-soil from some 276 premises on 1½-days each week.

The Council does not undertake the emptying of cesspits in any part of the District. A Public Cleansing Contractor frequently comes into our area. He is generally employed by persons who need cesspits emptying.

Waste paper has not been salvaged here since 1951. Prices which have prevailed since that year make the work uneconomic in a rural district.

In 1949, the Council adopted sub-section 3 of section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for supplying dust bins. 3,600 premises in the District are now using dust bins provided under the Scheme. Around 500 dust bins per year are used for installations and replacements.

The Conditions of the West Midlands Joint Industrial Council for Manual Workers have applied here since 1949. The employees have the advantage of a Sickness Benefit Scheme and two weeks of annual paid holiday.

In May, 1957, the Council commenced a Superannuation Scheme for all Manual Workers.

An original Refuse Collection Bonus Scheme was introduced in 1955, and has proved an outstanding success. Six fewer men are engaged on the work since 1955, and the number of premises cleared of refuse per man per day has increased threefold.

The Table on page 26 shews the collection areas; the number of premises in each area from which refuse is collected; the number of times all were cleared in 1959; the average number of premises cleared of refuse per man per day, and the number of refuse collection workers on each route.

Malingering ceased when the Bonus Scheme was introduced, as is indicated by the following table which shews the cost to the Council of the Sickness Benefit Scheme for refuse collectors over the last seven years.

				£.	s.	d.
Year ended 31st March,				1954	417.	5. 5.
"	"	"	"	1955	190.	12. 1.
"	"	"	"	1956	180.	8. 9.
"	"	"	"	1957	55.	12. 3.
"	"	"	"	1958	133.	6. 2.
"	"	"	"	1959	73.	15. 1.
"	"	"	"	1960	116.	4. 5.

HOUSE REFUSE DISPOSAL.

In December, 1959, the Council decided that Refuse Disposal would be more effectively carried out by mechanical means. A Bristol Duplex Bulldozer overloader was then ordered and should be delivered in February, 1960.

A dis-used clay pit at Hill Top, Baddesley Ensor, was filled in during 1959, with refuse from the central and northern parts of our District. Also tipping was continued in Hoo Hill Sand-pit at Polesworth.

3,221 loads of refuse were taken to the tips during the year.

150 loads of night-soil were disposed of at the Atherstone Sewage Works.

Col. 1.	Col. 2	Col. 3	Col. 4	Col. 5	Col. 6
Route	No. of Premises on Route	No. of Premises cleared in year	Av. No. of times all Premises cleared in 1959	Av. No. of Premises cleared per 8hr. day	No. of Refuse Collection Employees (Incl. Driver-Loaders)
Atherstone, Marnoeffer Grendon and Baddesley Ensor.	3,028 (3,079)	141,095 (145,695)	48 (48)	130 (142)	4
Polesworth, Dordon, Warton, Birchmoor and Freasley.	2,312 (2,244)	112,865 (122,126)	49 (55)	138 (159)	3
Hartshill, Ansley and Ridge Lane.	1,595 (1,581)	77,879 (81,059)	49 (51)	142 (159)	2
Rural.	895 (825)	41,444 (39,824)	49 (48)	107 (103)	2 (4-days only each week).
Whole District.	7,830 (7,729)	387,819 (388,704)	49 (50)	-	-
Night-Soil.	279 (285)	14,545 (14,877)	52 (52)	82 (87)	2 (1½-days only each week).

Figures in brackets refer to 1958.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Seven slaughterhouses were licensed in the year 1959. Of these, two are situated in the central area, three are in the northern part and two in the southern part of the district. Two of the slaughterhouses in the northern part were not used during 1959.

The slaughterhouses in the central and southern areas and one in the northern area are in constant use, and at "No. 1 Central" slaughtering is carried out on all seven days of the week throughout the year. All animals slaughtered are inspected by your Public Health Staff; meat inspection is also carried out every Sunday.

The Slaughterhouses are kept in a very clean and satisfactory condition.

Slaughterhouses	Cows	Cattle excl. Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. 1 Central.	61	1,157	140	4,321	6,077
No. 2 Central	4	409	1	1,712	854
No. 1 North	-	40	1	199	75
No. 2 North	-	-	-	-	-
No. 3 North	-	-	-	-	-
No. 1 South	1	88	4	568	95
No. 2 South	2	63	-	105	7
Totals	68	1,757	146	6,905	7,108

MEAT INSPECTION

The following Table shews the numbers of food animals slaughtered and inspected during 1959. Also the numbers of these affected with diseases which necessitated condemnation of carcasses or parts of carcasses and organs and the percentage diseased. The figures in brackets apply to the year 1958.

Details	Cows	Cattle excl. Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (all inspected).	68 (56)	1,757 (2,536)	146 (127)	6,905 (6,128)	7,108 (7,971)
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	2 (1)	- (5)	2 (4)	4 (4)	5 (10)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	24 (8)	492 (561)	2 (2)	31 (19)	1,081 (1,045)
Percentage affected with diseases other than tuberculosis.	38.23 (16.07)	28.00 (22.31)	2.70 (4.72)	0.52 (0.37)	15.27 (15.27)
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	- (-)	1 (1)	- (-)	- (-)	- (2)
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	2 (10)	70 (173)	- (-)	- (-)	143 (167)
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	2.94 (17.85)	4.04 (6.86)	- (-)	- (-)	2.01 (2.12)
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS.</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	- (-)	2 (1)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	- (-)	2 (1)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933 - 1954.

For 1960, 30 slaughtermen's licences have been renewed and one new licence has been issued.

MILK SUPPLIES AND DAIRIES

Our Register under the Acts and Regulations contains the following:-

Milk Distributors	...	...	...	...	...	22
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	8
Supplementary Pasteurised Licences	...	...				3
Supplementary Sterilised Licences	...	...				3
Supplementary Tuberculin Tested Licences	...					3
Dealers' Pasteurised Licences	...	...	...			11
Dealers' Sterilised Licences	...	...	...			8
Dealers' Tuberculin Tested Licences	...	...				8

Distributors are generally found to keep their dairies and utensils in clean and satisfactory condition.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is responsible for the administration of laws and regulations governing the production of milk at farms.

We have duties in connection with the distribution of milk and distributor's dairies, other than those at farms, and the use of measures to protect the public against the sale of milk which might cause disease.

During 1959, the County Health Department submitted nineteen Tuberculin Tested and twenty three non-designated milks for biological examinations.

Two cases of mixed undesignated milks containing living tubercle bacillie from herds in our area were reported by neighbouring County Authorities. Notices were served restricting milk supplies in the two cases. The Notices were withdrawn after veterinary investigations and removal of infected animals from the farms in question.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES

The food premises in the District can be divided into six main categories and the number in each category remains substantially the same as in the previous few years. These are indicated in Table A, *infra*. The main difference is in a further reduction of the number of bakehouses from 18 to 16. One an old established bakehouse, closed early in the year following the death of one of the two partners; the other, which had been closed for a number of years but re-established at the end of 1958, closed at the end of 1959. The cause for this latter closing appeared to be a combination of ill health, lack of suitable labour and competition from large bakeries.

The number of inspections and re-visits made to food premises during the year totalled 314. Due to other commitments time available for this work was somewhat limited, but all the larger provision shops, and premises where food is made up, received at least two visits.

It was not found necessary to institute any statutory proceedings, but during visits, 65 infringements of the various Regulations were noted. Informal approach to the person concerned was found to have the desired result and indicates continued co-operation between shopkeepers and this Department. The items of defects and neglect dealt with are detailed in Table B, *infra*.

A regular check was maintained on the one retail ice cream manufacturer in the District. The commodity is manufactured on the premises concerned during the summer months only and during that period 8 samples were taken for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory Service at Coventry. All these samples gave a satisfactory result as also did the two samples taken of ice cream manufactured outside the district.

Other foodstuffs condemned in foodshops during the year were, 526 tins of meat, milk, fish, fruit and vegetables; 62 lbs. of ham and 54 lbs. of sausage.

TABLE A

Provision Shops	...	...	...	...	141
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	28
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	11
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	16
Cafes and Canteens	...	...	...	...	24
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	76
Total					<u>296</u>

TABLE B

<u>Item</u>	<u>Remo-</u> <u>died</u>	<u>Outst-</u> <u>anding</u>
Improved storage and/or display of food	2	-
Provide constant supply of hot water	6	1
Provide improved washing facilities	-	-
Provide suitable sink or replace existing	4	-
Provide suitable drainage	-	-
Unsatisfactory condition of walls	13	-
Unsatisfactory condition of floors	2	-
Unsatisfactory condition of ceilings	7	1
Unsatisfactory condition of utensils	4	3
Unsatisfactory or defective closet accommodation	7	1
Improved closet accommodation	3	1
Fit flush to urinal (Licensed Premises)	2	-
Unsatisfactory storage of refuse	-	1
Improved storage of outdoor clothes	-	-
Other miscellaneous improvements	7	-
Total	<u>57</u>	<u>8</u>

FACTORIES

Four new factories were added to the Register during 1959, bringing the number of permanent entries to 76. In addition 32 temporary entries were made, these being of building operations and works of engineering construction.

It was not found possible to visit all the factories during the year but those employing the larger number of workers were visited at least once. During the 38 visits made 18 defects were found, of which 15 were remedied before the end of the year. The work required was mainly in respect of closet compartments which required proper cleansing and redecoration.

The number of defaults found in connection with Adequate Means of Escape in Case of Fire under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, were considerably lower than in the previous year and indicates the co-operation of managements in maintaining scheduled exits free from obstruction. At the end of the year 22 Certificates were in force under this Section, two new ones having been issued and one deleted due to the factory closing.

The number of Outworkers employed in the District declined to only 5 (mid-year), all being employed in either clothing or hatting industries.

TABLE I

	<u>No. on Reg.</u>	<u>Inspection</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Prosecutions</u>
(i) Factories where Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 enforced by L.A.	2	2	-	-
(ii) Factories where Section 7 only enforced by L.A.	74	29	8	-
(iii) Other factories where Section 7 enforced by L.A. (Building Sites etc).	32	7	-	-
Totals	108	38	8	-

TABLE II

	<u>Defects Found</u>	<u>Defects Remedied</u>
Unsatisfactory Means of Fire Escape	3	3
Want of cleanliness (S1)	-	-
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S3)	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S4)	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)		
(a) Insufficient	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	15	12
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-
Totals	18	15

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION AND SMOKE ABATEMENT

During the year 19 timed observations were made on factory chimneys, 17 being of half an hour duration and two of one hour duration. The observations were made against the Ringelmann Chart and in 15 cases infringement occurred of the more stringent requirements of Section 1 of the Clean Air Act, 1956. When these infringements were noted the Managements and stokers at the factories concerned were contacted and the requirements of the Act explained to them. Subsequent observations indicated a gradual, but substantial, improvement.

In August mechanical stoking apparatus was fitted to one installation which was a persistent offender. An immediate reduction of smoke output resulted.

Your Council is a member of the Warwickshire Clean Air Council, which comprises all Authorities in the County with the exception of Birmingham C.B. In co-operation with the Clean Air Council, constituent Authorities have set up various instruments for measuring the degree of atmospheric pollution occurring at selected points in the County. The instruments are of three types.

- (a) The Lead Peroxide Candle measure the activity of Sulphur-Dioxide in the air.
- (b) The Deposit Gauge measures grit deposit and rainfall, and can also be used to check radio activity and other pollutants.
- (c) The Daily Volumetric Instrument measures smoke, suspended matter and sulphur dioxide.

The first two mentioned require only monthly attention whilst the last named is attended to daily.

Since July, 1958, this Department has maintained one Lead Peroxide Candle at Bentley Reservoir and one Daily Volumetric Instrument at Polesworth High School. With regard to the latter, thanks are due to the Headmaster and Chemistry Master of this school for supervising the necessary daily measurements which are made by senior pupils.

In November, 1959, a Deposit Gauge was installed in the yard at the rear of the Council Offices and measurements commenced on 1st December. A Daily Volumetric Instrument was installed in a convenient room at the rear of the Council Offices and measurements commenced on November 16th. Attention to this is given by Health Department Staff, involving some five minutes work daily.

The Coventry City Analyst acts as Analyst to the Warwickshire Clean Air Council and readings from all these instruments are passed to him. After inclusion with readings from other Authorities they are passed on to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research to be included in a National Survey. No reliable assessment can be made after only one year's operation.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Enquiries are made into notified cases of infectious diseases and disinfections of houses, bedding and clothing are carried out when necessary.

Free supply of disinfectant for prophylactic measures in houses where infectious disease exists is carried out from four premises in various parts of the District and from the Public Health Department.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are no premises in the District where offensive trades are carried on.

CANAL BOATS

Occasional visits are paid to the docks and wharves.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION

The Council's Scheme of Contract Rodent Control commenced on the 1st January, 1957.

At the end of 1959, the value of Annual Contracts held was £818. All Contracts are made to expire on the 31st December each year. 83 of the Contracts were immediately re-newed for 1960; value £770.

According to size, nature and other conditions, from 5 to 25 "protected" Warfarin baiting points are maintained at all Contract holding premises. Monthly visits and inspections with bait renewals where necessary are carried out.

Sewers throughout the District are baited and poisoned once each year. All sewage works, refuse tips and Council Depots and yards are dealt with on Contract basis. Infestations at private dwellings are exterminated free of cost to the occupiers.

One full-time Rodent Operative is employed. He is equipped with a small motor-van and tools and materials for his calling. The Rodent Operative is given, apart from wages, a pecuniary interest in the work by way of an annual bonus of 5% of the gross value of all contracts held at the 14th December each year.

The cost of the service, excluding administration, is in the region of £900 per annum, of which, because of income, only about £150 is a direct rate charge.

Two years of this Council's method of Rodent Control has rendered our District virtually free from rats. If similar systematic control were effectively practised nationally, there is no doubt that rats could, in effect, be exterminated from the British Isles.

